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Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

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Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
Sixth session
Medellin, Colombia, 18–24 March 2018
Item 5 of the provisional agenda**

Report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the first work programme for the period 2014–2018

Information on work related to policy support tools and methodologies

Note by the secretariat

1. One of the four functions of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), set out in its founding resolution (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9), is to support "policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, such as those arising from assessments, to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies and, where necessary, to promote and catalyse their further development".

2. In decision IPBES-2/5, the Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau of IPBES to develop an online catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies ("the catalogue") to facilitate access by decision makers to policy support tools and methodologies, and provide guidance on how to promote and catalyse their further development. That decision also mandated the establishment of a task-specific expert group to support implementation, as necessary.

3. In decision IPBES-4/1, the Plenary, among other things, invited the submission of relevant policy support tools and methodologies by experts, Governments and stakeholders for inclusion in the catalogue; requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel to identify the various needs of users for, and facilitate the development of, policy support tools for all relevant deliverables of the work programme, as appropriate; and to oversee the content of the online catalogue and, in consultation with the Bureau, to further develop the governance of the catalogue, including by developing criteria and an open and transparent process for the inclusion of policy support tools and methodologies provided by experts, Governments and stakeholders.

4. In decision IPBES-5/1, the Plenary further requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau and supported by a reconstituted task-specific expert group on policy support tools and methodologies and the secretariat, to continue, subject to the availability of resources, to address the requests made in decision IPBES-4/1, and in addition to submit the prototype online catalogue for review by members, observers and stakeholders; to further develop the catalogue in cooperation with relevant international processes and interested partners; and to undertake an evaluation of the use and effectiveness of the online prototype of the catalogue in the context of the review of IPBES.

5. The annex to the present note, which is presented without formal editing, provides a progress report on the matter.

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* Reissued for technical reasons on 28 February 2018.

** IPBES/6/1.

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Annex

Information on work related to policy support tools and methodologies

I. Reconstituted expert group on policy support tools and methodologies

1. Following up on decision IPBES-5/1, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel at its ninth meeting considered the reconstitution of the expert group on policy support tools and methodologies, approved terms of reference for that group (see appendix I) and agreed that it should comprise two task groups, one task group to develop methodological guidance for assessing policy instruments and support tools within an IPBES assessment, and one task group to further develop the catalogue for policy support tools and promote and facilitate its use.

2. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel further agreed that the reconstituted expert group should be drawn from all 53 currently selected experts (20 experts belonging to the small core group and an additional 33 experts linked remotely). The technical support unit invited all 53 experts to indicate whether they wished to continue their work with the expert group, and if so for which task group. The list of experts of the two task groups is included in appendix II.

3. As agreed by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel at its ninth meeting, the technical support unit invited a limited number of resource persons including representatives of strategic partners to support the work of the task group on the catalogue. Appendix III lists and describes the invited organisations.

4. The following organizations and initiatives have so far expressed their interest in supporting the further development of the catalogue: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, BES-Net (UNDP), Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), GIZ ValuES project, Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), Instituto Alexander von Humboldt (Colombia), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research Germany (NeFo), secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), United Nations Environment Programme, United States Geological Survey (USGS), UNU facilitated Network of Regional Centres of Expertise and the Wildlife Institute of India.

II. Further development of the IPBES catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies

5. The first virtual meeting of the task group on the catalogue was held in August 2017 with the objectives of: introducing the policy support web portal, the catalogue and plans for IPBES-6 and beyond; receiving some first feedback and guidance on how to further develop the web portal; and discussing what, when and how invited organisations would contribute to the further development of the web portal. A second virtual meeting took place in October 2017, with the objectives: to provide an update of the revision of the web portal, including the catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies, and to discuss initial feedback on its features, usability and content. Resource persons participated in both meetings.

6. A revised version of the IPBES catalogue, hosted by the IPBES secretariat and constructed with the support from Oppla, the experts of the task group, and a number of resource persons, was made available for consideration by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel at its tenth meeting. Oppla is a web architecture developed by a partnership between two projects funded by the European Union: the Operational Potential of Ecosystem Research Applications (OPERAs) and Operationalization of natural capital and ecosystem services (OpenNESS). Oppla is now a European Economic Interest Grouping overseeing an open platform for sharing policy support tools and case studies related to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

7. In November 2017, the technical support unit invited resource people to upload content in order to further populate the catalogue. On 8 December 2017, the Secretariat issued a notification inviting IPBES Members, observers and other stakeholders to review the catalogue during a six-week period, and to upload additional content. The initial deadline for response of 19 January, was then extended to 26 January 2018.

8. Other meetings organised by external partners in three different regions were used opportunistically to share information on the work that was underway, and to receive feedback from a range of stakeholders. These meetings were as follows:

(a) At an IPBES capacity-building workshop in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, organised by the Institute for Biodiversity Network (IBN), 16-17 October 2017, participants reviewed the draft version of the IPBES Policy Support web portal and provided feedback.

(b) At a meeting of the project "Establishing a West African experts network for contributing to the IPBES work programme" held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 28-30 November 2017, there was a specific session focusing on IPBES work on policy support tools and methodologies, where the objectives and potential content of the catalogue was discussed.

(c) At the First Regional Centres of Excellence (RCE) thematic conference under the theme "Towards Achieving the SDGs" held in Okayama, Japan, 5-7 December 2017, a specific section was dedicated to IPBES work on policy support tools and methodologies.

(d) At a meeting organized by the German Network Forum on Biodiversity, planned to take place in Leipzig 16-17 January 2018, the primary focus will be on policy support tools and their use.

9. The policy support portal comprises two components:

(a) The catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies contains a number of interlinked resources. In particular, policy support tools and policy instruments are linked to assessments, case studies, learning opportunities, and communities of practice. Regarding functionalities, each of these types of resources are linked through a keyword search function and filters that allow the user to refine their search, and get a full list of results from the overall content of the catalogue.

(b) The sections related to methodological guidance on scenarios and models, and on diverse values were developed by the technical support units on scenarios and models, and on values, respectively. The content is based on the information included in the methodological assessment report on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services; and in the preliminary guide on values. They contain methodological guidance based on the work developed so far on scenarios and models by providing an overview of what they are and how they can link to agenda setting and decision support; and on multiple conceptualizations of diverse values by providing the conceptual justification for the approach, explaining trough a six-step approach how to tackle them and providing an immersion to the topic for the IPBES community.

10. The current version of the IPBES policy support portal has been further developed based on the feedback received through the review process and is now available at www.ipbes.net/policy-support. A draft plan for the more effective use of the catalogue in promoting and facilitating the more effective use of policy support tools and methodologies in the future is provided in appendix IV.

III. Further development of methodological guidance to support assessments

11. In line with paragraph 2(a) of the terms of reference for the expert group, approved by the MEP (see para 1 above and appendix I), the intention of the guidance under development is to support current and future IPBES assessments in considering policy support tools and methodologies. The guidance is based on the experience of other ongoing and completed assessments. This will help ensure consistency in how policy support tools and methodologies are identified and as appropriate used in carrying out assessments. It will in this way also ensure that links are built between the assessment processes and the catalogue. Two components already exist, on scenarios and models, and on values, based on the work of other expert groups and their technical support units.

12. The task group on methodological guidance met virtually in November 2017 to discuss the workplan for the development of the methodological guidance. As a result, the initially drafted outline was slightly amended to respond more adequately to its goal. The experts who joined the task group have taken responsibility for working on one or more of the sections of the outline of the methodological guidance to which they wished to contribute.

13. The first draft of the guidance has been developed in the period January/February 2018. Shortly after the sixth session of the IPBES Plenary, the draft will be submitted to the Bureau, Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and coordinating lead authors for chapter 6 of the regional and global assessments, and chapters 6 and 8 of the land degradation assessment for their review.

14. It is expected that the guidance, following its consideration by MEP and Bureau, would be finalised by July 2018, with a view to making it available as part of the IPBES guide on assessments (IPBES/6/INF/17).

IV. Outline of activities for the 2018-2019 intersessional period

15. An indicative list of activities to be developed in the 2018-2019 intersessional period is presented below for the different components of the work on policy support tools and methodologies (based on the assumptions that there is funding for the technical support unit for policy support tools for the 2018-2019 intersessional period):

(a) Activities related to the further development of the catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies:

(i) Active development of catalogue content and associated communities of practice based on calls from the secretariat to governments and stakeholders and proactive follow up

(ii) IPBES secretariat to encourage owners and developers of policy support tools and methodologies to develop capacity-building activities related to their use

(iii) Follow up with assessment TSUs to ensure that appropriate tools and methodologies addressed in assessments are included

(iv) Further development of the web portal in order to respond to the feedback from users

(v) Submission by the IPBES secretariat of a call for governments and stakeholders to review the use, usability and content of the catalogue after one year of it being finalised

(vi) Showcase of the catalogue and its functionalities at international meetings organised by partner organizations (e.g. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; BES-Net; Bio-Bridge Initiative)

(vii) Showcase of positive examples relating to the use of the catalogue during IPBES-7 in order to emphasise its value in building capacity and supporting policy development

(b) Activities related to the further development of the methodological guidance to support assessments:

(i) Finalisation of the methodological guidance to support assessments

(ii) Development of trainings and webinars on the methodological guidance (building on in kind support provided by projects funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and tool developers, and extending the programme further)

Appendix I

Terms of reference for the expert group on policy support tools and methodologies (approved by the MEP at its 9th meeting, June 2017)

Purpose

1. The purpose of the expert group is to support the achievement of deliverable 4 (c) of the work programme on policy support tools and methodologies, in the context of relevant Plenary decisions.

Responsibilities of the expert group

2. The responsibilities of the expert group are as follows:

(a) to support development of methodological guidance for assessment authors, including development of interim guidance until such time as the full guidance is available;

(b) to provide advice on further development of the prototype catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies, covering both its functionality and its contents;

(c) to provide advice on the integration of the catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies, and the catalogue of relevant assessments (deliverable 4 (a)); and

(d) to provide advice and support in promoting and facilitating the use of the catalogue in increasing access to policy support tools and methodologies.

Membership of the reconstituted expert group

3. The expert group will comprise two Bureau members and three members of the MEP, between them covering the five United Nations regions, and the subset of 53 experts previously selected that decided to continue to support the work of this deliverable.

4. The expert group would operate within two distinct but interrelated task groups, one on the development of methodological guidance and the other on the further development, promotion and facilitation of use of the catalogue.

5. The task group guidance would be further supported by the coordinating lead authors working on assessment chapters addressing policy support tools, who would be invited to also participate as "online reviewers".

6. At the discretion of the co-chairs of the expert group, and following consultation with the Bureau, a limited number of resource persons and representatives of organizations and networks with expertise on policy support tools and methodologies, in particular their development and use, would be invited to participate in the work of the expert group as resource persons.

Modus operandi

7. The expert group will be co-chaired by two experts from the group, selected by the MEP. A management committee may be established, if deemed necessary, by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, comprising the co-chairs, the involved members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau, the secretariat, and the technical support unit.

8. The work of the expert group will be carried out through web-based meetings and other electronic interaction, including through review of documents and online implementations, and contribution of advice.

9. In carrying out its work, expert group members and others involved should also:

(a) integrate advice on how to draw effectively on existing experience, complementing and building upon existing initiatives;

(b) advise on strategic partnerships that could help to further promote and facilitate use of policy support tools and methodologies; and actively engage in further promoting and facilitating use of policy support tools and methodologies in the context of IPBES.

Appendix II

Composition of the reconstituted expert group on policy support tools and methodologies

The task groups are currently constituted as follows:

A. Task group for the development and review of methodological guidance ("task group on guidance")

	Name	Country
1	Mary George	Malaysia
2	Tatiana Kluvankova	Slovakia
3	Esther Turnhout	Netherlands
4	Emmanuel Munyeneh	Liberia
5	Paul Ongugo	Kenya
6	Irene Ring	Germany
7	Juana Mariño	Colombia
8	Ryo Kohsaka	Japan
9	Neville Crossman	Australia
10	Claudia Ituarte-Lima	Mexico
11	Mochamad Indrawan	Indonesia
12	Madhav Karki	Nepal
13	Ersin Esen	Turkey
14	Masaru Yarime	Japan
15	Prudence Galega	Cameroon
16	Lydia Olander	United States of America
17	Marina Rosales Benites de Franco	Peru
18	Aletta Bonn	Germany
19	Eeva Primmer	Finland
20	Kai Chan	Canada

B. Task group for the further development of the catalogue, and for promoting and facilitating its use ("task group on the catalogue")

	Name	Country
1	Mialy Andriamahefazafy	Madagascar
2	Juliette Young	United Kingdom

Appendix III

Engagement of resource persons and strategic partners in the further development of the catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies

The following provides a list of the institutions which were invited, to support the work of the task group on the catalogue.

1. Reasons to seek support from resource persons and strategic partners

Resource persons and strategic partners would add value to the work under way by:

- Facilitating outreach to global networks of individuals who can support the review of the catalogue by providing a practitioner's perspective on its structure, format and functionalities.
- Providing advice in promoting and facilitating an increased use of the catalogue at national levels, so that the effective use of policy support tools and methodologies is increased.
- Building links to national and regional organizations which are already supporting the use of policy support tools and methodologies at the national level in multiple countries, to have access to their networks of practitioners who can also provide feedback and advice.
- Building links to other organizations developing, promoting and facilitating the use of policy support tools and methodologies, so as to help ensure alignment, mutual support and cross-learning.
- Helping to develop the initial content of the catalogue to a level where it is ready for review and testing by IPBES Members and observers

It is expected that support from resource persons and strategic partners for the further development of the catalogue would be provided over the remainder of the first work programme.

2. List of organisations invited to support the work of the task group on the catalogue

National or regional organizations

2.1 Africa

i. South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) https://www.sanbi.org/

SANBI plays a leading role in South Africa's national commitment to biodiversity management particularly in relation to the biodiversity research agenda, provision of knowledge and information, policy support and advice, and monitoring and reporting on the state of biodiversity.[1] The interface between science and policy in the South African biodiversity sector is aided by the existence of SANBI as a knowledge institution in government with an explicit mandate to advise other organs of state on biodiversity-related matters.[2]

ii. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) https://www.csir.co.za/

The CSIR undertakes multidisciplinary research and technological innovation, playing a key role in supporting government's programmes through directed research that is aligned with the country's priorities, the organisation's mandate and its science, engineering and technology competences.

iii. Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute http://www.ebi.gov.et/

The objective of the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute is to ensure the appropriate conservation and utilization of the country's biodiversity. The Institute has the responsibility and duty to implement international conventions, agreements and obligations on biodiversity to which Ethiopia is a party. For example, it has overall responsibility for coordinating Ethiopia's Strategic Plan 2015-2020, and serves as IPBES national focal point for Ethiopia.

[1] South Africa's 2nd National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015 – 2025 https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/za/za-nbsap-v2-en.pdf

[2] UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/39/Add.1

2.2 Asia-Pacific

i. **ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity** https://aseanbiodiversity.org/

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates cooperation and coordination among the ten ASEAN Member States (AMS) and with regional and international organizations on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such natural treasures. Through their goals, they aim to enhance the linkage between science and policy on biodiversity, and to deliver knowledge and tools on managing biodiversity, among others.

ii. **Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)** http://www.apn-gcr.org

The APN is an intergovernmental organization that is to enable investigations of changes in the Earth's life support systems and their implications for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through support for research and science-based response strategies and measures, effective linkages between science and policy, and scientific capacity development. APN just received a grant from Japan to help IPBES build capacity, in particular regarding dialogues with governments on findings of IPBES assessments.

iii. **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)** http://www.sprep.org/

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)[3] is an intergovernmental organization mandated to provide assistance in order to protect and improve the environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations in the Pacific region.

iv. **Wildlife Institute of India** https://www.wii.gov.in/

The Wildlife Institute of India established by the Government of India is actively engaged in research across the breadth of the country on biodiversity related issues through a range of activities such as developing scientific knowledge on wildlife resources; and providing information and advice on specific wildlife management problems. The Institute can reach out to alumni in relevant government and non-government positions right across India, and also many other countries in the region.

2.3 Eastern Europe

i. **Regional Environmental Center** http://www.rec.org/

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) promotes cooperation among governments, non-governmental organisations, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and supports the exchange of knowledge and information to assist in addressing environmental issues. The REC offers expertise in capacity building, multi-stakeholder dialogue and action at local level in three key areas: environmental governance, low-emission development and resilience, and natural resources management.[4]

ii. **WWF-Caucasus** http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/

WWF is one of the world's largest conservation organizations. It focuses its work on biodiversity, ecosystems and habitats, while trying to reduce the impact of human activities on the environment. WWF Caucasus implements a range of projects aimed at supporting decision-making processes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

2.4 Latin America and the Caribbean

i. **Instituto Alexander von Humboldt** http://www.humboldt.org.co/es/

The Institute focuses its work on the inventorying, monitoring and assessment of the status of Colombia's biodiversity in support of: (a) decision-making on its management and conservation; (b) research on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, including genetic resources; and (c) the coordination of the National Biodiversity Information System. The Institute also contributes to policy development, project implementation, coordination of matters related to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol, the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network, and the

[3] SPREP's members are American Samoa, Australia, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

[4] http://documents.rec.org/about/REC%20Strategy%202016-2020.pdf

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, among others.[5] It also serves as IPBES national focal point for Colombia.

ii. **Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)** https://www.gob.mx/conabio

CONABIO was established to promote, coordinate, support and conduct activities aimed at enhancing the knowledge of biodiversity and its conservation and sustainable use for the benefit of society. In undertaking applied research, generating biodiversity information, developing capacities in biodiversity informatics and offering access to biodiversity information and knowledge the Commission serves as a bridge between academia, government and society. Domestically, the Commission promotes coordination across ministries and scientific disciplines with a view to providing information for decision-making on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.[6] It also serves as IPBES national focal point for Mexico.

iii. **Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)** http://www.iai.int/?lang=en

IAI's mission is to develop the capacity of understanding the integrated impact of past, present and future global change on regional and continental environments in the Americas and to promote collaborative, well-informed actions at all levels. While research is at the core of IAI activities, the Science-Policy Liaison area seeks to strengthen the relevance, legitimacy and credibility of the Institute's science before policy-makers in the public sector, the private sector and civil society. The IAI Directorate and its network of scientists in the Americas collaborate with IPBES by providing knowledge from its research networks (for example IAI has nominated scientists from its networks to IPBES regional and sub-regional assessments), supporting research capacity-building and promoting a policy-science interface in member countries.

iv. **Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)** https://www.catie.ac.cr/en/

CATIE is an international entity focused on knowledge management, from its generation to its dissemination, use and adoption. It supports the development and validation of methods, instruments, technologies and policies as well as its dissemination at all levels for the purpose of technical and political incidence and the formation of graduate students and training of qualified professionals to put them into practice.

2.5 Western European and other States

i. **European Environment Agency (EEA)** https://www.eea.europa.eu/

The EEA helps its member countries to make informed decisions about improving the environment, integrating environmental considerations into economic policies and moving towards sustainability. It also coordinates the European environment information and observation network (EIONET). The EEA provides assessments and information on a range of issues including the state of the environment, current trends and pressures, economic and social driving forces, and policy effectiveness.

ii. **GIZ ValuES project** http://www.aboutvalues.net/

The ValuES project, implemented by GIZ, supports practitioners, advisors and decision makers in government and civil society organizations in the integration of ecosystem services into decision-making and planning processes. The project is dedicated to disseminating methods and approaches for improving the integration of ecosystem services in policy, planning and practice. The project advises specialists and experts in ministries and other organizations in around 20 partner countries, conducts capacity building trainings and brings project partner experiences back into the global scientific and policy dialogue on biodiversity and ecosystem services. ValuES has followed the development of IPBES since 2015, bringing in its expertise into the IPBES work on multiple values of biodiversity and ecosystem services.[7]

iii. **United States Geological Survey (USGS)** https://www.usgs.gov/

USSG provides science, tools, and decision support related to ecosystems and the environment to natural resource managers and planners in the United States and around the world. They develop new methods and tools to enable timely, relevant, and useful information about the Earth and its processes.

[5] UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/39

[6] UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/39

[7] http://biodiversity.de/sites/default/files/products/reports/nefo_giz_values_eng_2_ansicht.pdf

USGS collects, monitors, analyses, and provides scientific data and information about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems on number of topics such as ecosystems and water.

iv. **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)** https://www.csiro.au/

CSIRO is a multidisciplinary research organisation of the Australian government that has a wide network of experts within and outside Australia. CSIRO not only generates and disseminates knowledge but also assists in the uptake and use of scientific results to achieve national objectives and responsibilities. In addition, its wide coverage makes it tasked with connecting individuals, associations and industry across the world around scientific research.[8]

Global organizations

i. **UNU facilitated Network of Regional Centres of Expertise** http://www.rcenetwork.org/portal/

As a result of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) launched the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) project. To achieve its objectives, one of the created flagship initiatives of the ESD project is a global multi-stakeholder network of Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs). The Regional Centres of Expertise bring together institutions at the regional/local level to jointly promote education for sustainable development. They build platforms to share information and experiences and to promote dialogue among regional/local stakeholders through partnerships for sustainable development. They also create a local/regional knowledge base to support actors in education for sustainable development.[9]

ii. **Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)** http://www.cifor.org/

CIFOR is a CGIAR Research Centre that leads the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry. It works with a number of research partners around the world in order to advance human well-being, environmental conservation and equity by conducting research to inform policies and practices that affect forests in developing countries. Its work is done through a global, multidisciplinary approach and by engaging with various stakeholders to inform policies and practices that affect forests and people.

iii. **CBD Secretariat** https://www.cbd.int/

CBD secretariat plays a significant role in coordinating the work carried out under the Convention with that of other relevant institutions and conventions, and represents the Convention at meetings of relevant bodies. The Implementation Support Division of the secretariat provides support to Parties in the implementation and review of the Convention and its Protocols by facilitating the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and follow-up of its capacity-building activities and by supporting CBD and national clearing-house mechanisms as a tool to advance knowledge management for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

iv. **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** https://www.iucn.org

IUCN provides knowledge and tools to enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation take place together. IUCN and its partners have developed a range of knowledge products consisting of conservation databases and tools such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems and the World Database on Key Biodiversity Areas.

v. **BES-Net (UNDP)** http://besnet.world

BES-Net has been involved in supporting the work on the catalogue as resource in the first phase already.

[8] https://www.csiro.au/en/About/Our-impact/Reporting-our-impact/Annual-reports/15-16-annual-report/Overview-download

[9] http://archive.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=1849&ddlID=183

Appendix IV

Ways to promote the ongoing update of the IPBES catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies

1. Mandate

One of the four functions of IPBES set out in the founding resolution (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9) is to support "policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, such as those arising from assessments, to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies and, where necessary, to promote and catalyse their further development".

In decision IPBES-2/5, the Plenary requested the MEP and the Bureau to develop an online catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies to facilitate access by decision makers to policy support tools and methodologies, and to provide guidance on how to promote and catalyse their further development. In addition, through decision IPBES-4/1, the Plenary requested the MEP, in consultation with the Bureau, to further develop the governance of the catalogue, including by developing criteria and an open and transparent process for the inclusion of policy support tools and methodologies provided by experts, Governments and stakeholders.

2. Introduction to the policy support portal

The Policy Support portal comprises two components:

- The catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies contains a number of interlinked resources. In particular, policy support tools and policy instruments are linked to assessments, case studies, learning opportunities, and communities of practice. Regarding functionalities, each of these types of resources are linked through a keyword search function and filters that allow the user to refine their search, and get a full list of results from the overall content of the catalogue.
- The section related to methodological guidance currently contains information on scenarios and models, and on diverse values, which was developed by the Technical Support Units on scenarios and models, and on values, respectively. The content is based in the information included in the methodological assessment report on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services; and in the Preliminary guide regarding diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services. They contain methodological guidance based on the work developed so far on scenarios and models by providing an overview of what they are and how they can link to agenda setting and decision support; and on multiple conceptualizations of diverse values by providing the conceptual justification for the approach, explaining trough a six-step approach how to tackle them and providing an immersion to the topic for the IPBES community.

The catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies contributes for the delivery of one of IPBES functions, i.e. to support policy formulation and implementation. It is therefore of fundamental importance that that the policy support portal in general, and the catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies in particular, continue:

- Being a high-quality repository of policy support tools and instruments relating to biodiversity and ecosystems
- Being used by decision makers, practitioners and experts to support policy formulation and implementation related to biodiversity and ecosystems

3. Ways to ensure the ongoing update of the catalogue

This document has the purpose of presenting a number of strategies that could be potentially used to ensure the continued update of the policy support portal and the catalogue. In particular, strategies that would contribute to the realisation of the following objectives will be described:

1. The content of the portal and catalogue is up to date
2. The catalogue has a wide range of content for its different product types (policy instruments, policy support tools, case studies, training, experts, assessments)
3. The catalogue is visible and used

In presenting the mentioned strategies, it is assumed that they need to be cost effective, particularly with respect to: (i) amount of time needed for their implementation; and (ii) number of staff available to undertake these tasks. Bearing this in mind, the proposed strategies aim to simplify and automate processes rather than creating overly burdensome activities. For this purpose, it is expected that systems and processes already in place be used to the extent possible.

A) Make experts the owners of their various products and therefore responsible of the update of their own resources

So far, the catalogue has been populated by a number of resource people and experts around the world. It is the aim that this approach continues being implemented to ensure that the newest and most up-to-date products are made available through the portal. All resources should be linked with at least one expert, who will be responsible for keeping the information about the resource up to date. The following strategies can be considered:

1. **IPBES secretariat to issue a yearly request for the resources in the catalogue to be checked and updated as appropriate**. This could be done in various ways, such as through an automated email that is sent out every year at a period to be determined, asking for the experts to check and, if necessary, update their own resources.
   The system for checking/updating content could allow the expert to check the content of the product and then, with no changes or after making changes if deemed necessary, the content would appear as "verified" by them or "last updated on XXX", after clicking "save" on the resource.

2. **Adding an option for users to report when a product is inaccurate or incomplete**. This could for example be implemented through an additional tab under each product that would allow for users to "report" information that is inaccurate, incomplete, or out of date. After clicking the link, a simple form would pop up, with a text box allowing the user to explain what the issue is. The author of the specific resource would receive this comment via email with an invitation to check and as appropriate update the information. If they accept the suggestions and subsequently update their resource, an automated email would be sent to the person who reported the issue to notify them that changes to the resource have been made.

3. **Having more than one expert performing the role of authors/owners of the products could be helpful to ensure continuity of the work, while allowing them to share or delegate the responsibility for a specific resource**. Given that authors uploading tools can change affiliation or the day-to-day workload could be a limitation for them to regularly update information in the portal, having more than one author per resource can help to ensure that the information in the catalogue is accurate and up to date. Alternatively, given that author and contact people can be different, ways to allow the contact people (either individuals or organizations) to edit content from a specific product can also be explored.

Advantages:

- By giving the responsibility of updating the resources to the people who know the most about them, IPBES ensures that the resources will remain relevant while suppressing the need to contract other people to do it (people who could be less knowledgeable about the resources, thus requiring more time and effort to update them, and increase the risk of inaccurate information being uploaded).
- By allowing users to report issues, and making the subsequent update process transparent:
  - product owners would have the opportunity to correct mistakes they might have missed or update the tool with information they are not aware of yet, and
  - it allows for broader engagement, thus improving the user experience.
- Sharing the role of authors would ensure the update of resources of experts changing affiliation or retiring by transferring the responsibility to other colleagues who are also experts on the subjects.

Limitations:

- Experts might be reluctant to take the responsibility for a resource as this might add to their current workload. However, the incentive for them to perform this role would be to disseminate their products further across the globe.

B) Adding and updating resources from IPBES assessments

IPBES is to perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages at different scale of application. One of the components of these assessments consists in assessing policy responses within the context of the different assessments. It is worth noting that as part of the module of the Guide on the production of assessments that deals with policy instruments and policy support tools, a specific section will address the incorporation of policy instruments and policy support tools and methodologies into the IPBES catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies.

In this respect, there are two main activities that need to be considered:

1. **Uploading resources from IPBES assessments**: Contributors to assessments would be asked to add the resources used and/or developed for the assessments to the catalogue. They would then either assign themselves as authors for the resource, or ask someone else to take up that responsibility for future updates as deemed necessary.

2. **Updating resources from IPBES assessments**: After each IPBES assessment is finalised, the experts will be required to double-check if any of the resources of relevance to the catalogue are already included and therefore need updating. If not, they will add them.

Advantages:

- This system will be integrated in the Guide on production and integration of assessments from and across all scales (deliverable 2a), through its module D that specifically deals with policy support tools. This will make that material coming from IPBES assessments will be systematically added into the catalogue.
- The catalogue would be a source of information for experts undertaking IPBES assessments to get in touch with other experts working on related issues around the world, or to learn about related products to the ones being initially considered.
- By integrating the process for updating resources with the assessment process, the amount of time required to check the resource massively decreases.

Limitations:

- IPBES assessments can be an overly time-consuming endeavour and, furthermore, the addition of content to the catalogue would be done once the assessment is finalised. Hence, this might require proactive follow up with the experts in charge of the section on policy responses in order for them to add the relevant information into the catalogue.

C) Adding resources from partner organisations

Similarly to the approach taken through the work done with resource people during the recent development phase of the catalogue, a proactive approach to identify products of relevance to the catalogue from partner organisations could be implement.

Advantages:

- This could give more visibility to small projects or organisations, while expanding the content and reach of the catalogue, thus maintaining/expanding the catalogue's relevance and credibility.

Limitations:

- This would require having staff dedicated to identifying products from partner organizations, while following up with them as appropriate